

U.S Fish & Wildlife Office
Attn:CCP Comment Room
101 51 East Fourth Street,
Winona, Minn. 55987

1780

The White Pine Group of the Sierra Club supports Alternative D to The UMWR comprehensive plan.. Under section 6.5 we believe that the UMWR is grossly understaffed in view of both size and visitation on the refuge..Under section 5.1 we believe on alcohol free beach per pool is desirable but only if staff size is increased sufficiently to allow enforcement without impacting staff's other duties. Under section 5.2 and 5.3 we believe there are areas on the refuge that are sensitive to some kinds of boat traffic and should at least be no wake areas and possibly restricted to 4 cycle and/or electric motors. Under section 4.11 we would like to see the refuge expand interpretive events and educational programs..Under section 4.10 we are delighted with the proposed 31 observation areas,16 hiking trails,21 canoe trails,5 biking trails,3 auto tour routes,3 observation towers, and 3 photography blinds. Under section 4.2 we feel that there need to be new closed areas to hunting that address the precipitous decline of Scaup populations. Under section 3.7 we feel there needs to be a mussel management plan and a plan to deal with invasive species to ensure survival of threatened and endangered species.Under section 3.8 we support a turtle ecology study. Under section 3.2 please adopt guiding principles on design and construction of projects for fish & wildlife. Under section 3.4 prepare management plans to help recovery of threatened and endangered species. Under section 2.1 adopt a proactive program to improve water quality in the Upper Missississippi watershed.. Under section 2.3 complete invasive plant inventory by 2008 and reduce areas affected by at least 10% by 2010. Under section 2.4 increase efforts to control invasive animals. Under section 1.2 acquire inholdings from willing sellers. Under section 1.3 add blufflands by sale by willing owners or conservation easements. The Mississippi blufflands are an important migratory corridor to non waterfowl birds that the refuge is not presently protected. Under section 1.4 develop management plans for refuge natural areas.

Charles Winterwood



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